

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 February 2011
At St. Paul's Parish Room, Dover

Present:

Derek Leach – chair, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Mike McFarnell, Maureen Morris, William Naylor, Georgette Rapley, Alan Sencicle, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

1. Apologies

Jeremy Cope, Pat Sherratt, Jack Woolford

2. Minutes from 13 January

Amendment to those present – Alan Lee had attended the last meeting. The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising

- **Article for Dover Life** – Cowgate article done.
- **Jack Hewitt bench** – DTC informed DL that the seat will be installed 17 February. It was agreed that there should be a short ceremony on Fri 18 Feb and the Mayor of Dover invited to attend.
- **DPPT** – The letter has been acknowledged by the Minister.
- **Meeting arrangements** - GR has agreed to take over the speaker arrangements if someone will take on the raffle from October. DL will ask if a member of the Society would take this on. AS has agreed to continue the Blake's Restaurant arrangements for speaker hospitality. SC asked if the Society should start to charge for entry to meetings rather than continue to use a raffle to cover costs. This was discussed and a number of alternatives including cash only or voucher only prizes were suggested. MW will contact DDC regarding any further licence is required. This will be considered at the next meeting.
- **Dover's Public Toilets** – A DTC decision has been taken but has not been reported in the local press. Concern was expressed about those situated on the seafront whose future is undecided.
- **Air-Raid Warden's Post at Dover Priory** – DL has contacted KCC and a meeting is to be arranged with the responsible officer to discuss the building. GR and Roger Marples will also attend.
- GR was to attend Chris Precious' **Heritage meeting**. She did but Mr Precious did not. No further action.
- **Channel Dash memorial** – GR reported that DTC could not support this.

4. Chairman's Report

DL gave his report to the Committee:

- The Granville Street Plaque has been unveiled. Photos were taken for the magazine. DL thanked JC for the arrangements.
- Friends of Dover Museum are having trouble filling tour coaches, as is the Society. DL has suggested that the two groups should cross-advertise future events. This was agreed.

5. Secretary's Report

WN gave his report:

- He attended the meeting of the Dover Festival Committee, but reported that there appears to be little progress with poor attendance, and much time spent on discussing constitution

and arrangements. A tattoo has been proposed and was discussed. WN and MMcF gave details. There is a website www.doverfestival.info for further information.

6. Treasurer's Report

MW gave his report.

- Financial figures have been circulated to members by email and were reviewed. Subscriptions received during the last month for the next financial year amounted to £12. Revenue from the sale of old copies of the newsletter received amounted to £3 last month. £15.92 was paid out for stationery, copying and printing, and £60 was paid for the printing of the new plaque trail leaflets. The January meeting made a loss of £0.62, but the Wine & Wisdom evening bookings are good.
- He read out a letter regarding the insurance for civic societies, following the ending of their agreement with Civic Voice. The Committee gave permission for the insurance to be renewed as proposed (TS, GR).
- The cost of hiring the committee room at St Paul's is to increase slightly to £140. (WN, MMcF – unanimous)
- He asked for any outstanding expenses to be presented before the next meeting.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

SC gave her report.

- She now has her own email account: sheilacope@willersley.plus.com
- The Society has six new members and she gave details: Mr M. Newton, Mrs J. Skinner, Mrs J Purssord, Mr D Emms, Mrs A Bertelson and Mr J Golding. The last number allocated was 1072, with current membership of 435.
- SC distributed copies of the new Plaques Trail leaflets. A number of potential outlets were discussed.

8. Projects

In JC's absence, SC reported:

- **Cowgate** – the rubbish is being put where the council will be able to clear it from the site.
- **River Dour** – nothing to report
- **Town Hall** – DL has negotiated with the managing company for regular tours and has recruited four additional guides. Jon Iveson is producing a guide for the guides which will be ready at the end of March. Publicity for the tours is required and DL asked the Committee for funds for a leaflet. DL will circulate a mock-up for approval. Up to £100 for 1000 was agreed from the publication fund. DL is waiting to arrange a meeting with advisors from the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding refurbishment bid.

9. Sub-committee for the refurbishment of Dover

The next meeting of the sub-committee will be held on 14 February and will be reported on at the March meeting.

10. Social Secretary

- PHS gave an update on Christmas Feast rescheduled date. It is now too late to publicise a Spring Feast. PHS has booked St. Marys' Centre for 10 December 2011 as this date can not be met by the Dover College. She is looking at possible catering companies for a variety of menus.
- The "Wine & Wisdom" bookings have increased now to 91 and she was worried that the hall might be over filled.
- The House of Commons trip on 14 June is being promoted via the magazine.

- GR gave details of a proposed visit on 9 September to the Jeffery Museum . Details and cost need to be confirmed. GR asked if she could prepare short leaflet at own expense to promote this trip. This was agreed.

11. Planning & Local Government Committee

This committee met on 1 February, and PS was unable to attend. He had circulated a report to members by email, which was reviewed.

- Concern was expressed about the tree felling that is going on in the town and the confusion as to the reasons why some trees were being reviewed. JC has asked Kent Highways to put details on their website and on the trees themselves giving full details.
- DL gave details of concerns over an application on a derelict site in River Street.
- AL expressed concern over the traffic congestion caused by the road improvements in the town.
- TS gave details of an application for development off Singledge Lane, Whitfield, from Ward Homes.
- AS gave details about part of the river walk along the River Dour alongside Netto, which is under threat from possible expansion of the shop. Lorraine Sencile has produced evidence of the path's history, but it has never formally been adopted as an official right of way. DL suggested that the standing of the signs should be clarified, and AS agreed to write to Kirk Alexander. He will report back at next meeting.
- GR will be attending a meeting on cycle routes on 16 March in the area. This meeting is open to members of the public.
- A Society member, Mr T Brown, has reported that a boat is moored on the beach alongside Abbotscliff. PS is investigating this and will report back to the next Planning meeting.

12. Press Secretary's Report

TS gave a report on recent press activities.

13. Editor's Report

AL gave a report.

The next magazine is on track and will be out by the end of March.

14. Publications

There was nothing to report.

15. Lottery Bids

There was nothing to report.

16. Any Other Business

- MMcF indicated that the Dover Society had the opportunity to promote the Society at the Film Festival. There was a discussion about what would be suitable and what format should be used. SC will ensure spare copies of the magazine are passed to PS, who is attending the Festival.
- The Society's AGM arrangements were discussed. It was agreed that DL would present all the reports. DL asked if the current members were willing to stand again. MM expressed a wish to stand down, but will join the Refurbishment Committee. DL and MW asked if any one would like to take over as chairman and treasurer. There were no takers.
- JC will provide the agenda information for the magazine. DL will précis the 2010 AGM minutes for the magazine.
- MMcF reported a rumour that English Heritage is going to close all sites from November to March in an effort to save money. This was discussed. MMcF has already emailed English

Heritage on behalf of the Friends of Dover Castle. It was agreed that DL as chair of the Society and TS as chair of the White Cliffs Tourism Association should do the same to clarify the situation and encourage them to keep the Castle open at weekends.

- SC thanked AL for doing the Society posters, promoting the next meeting's speakers.
- GH reported that he had an email from the Society's website, to which he had responded.
- AL asked if anyone knew where Creasy's Alley was? It was mentioned in St Mary's church book.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Thursday 10 March 2011, 7.30pm, at St Pauls.